

WHAT IS OPERATION DAY'S WORK?

Operation Day's Work (ODW), a student run program, began in Norway in 1964 with the intent of providing foreign aid to developing countries. It has an elected student government which chooses a country for the year and organizes the curriculum for a week of student learning. At the end of the week the students of Norway work at a variety of jobs to raise money for a specific project in the designated country. Over the past thirty years, ODW has helped projects in 35 different countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In 1996 a quarter of a million students raised three million dollars for ODW.

"DO YOU ENJOY BEING ABLE TO EAT EVERY DAY?"

90% of Haitian residents aren't able to. Of the estimated seven million Haitians living in an area approximately the size of Vermont, most of them don't eat regularly. That same 90% is also not able to receive adequate water, electricity, education, medical care, decent housing, steady paid work, clothing or even shoes. 85% of Haitians can't read or write.

→ There are 2 million babies born in Haiti every year. Half of these babies die before their fifth birthday due to malnutrition and starvation related illnesses.

→ There is an enormous AIDS problem which is hard to control because most Haitians can't afford contraceptives or other means of prevention. → 70% of the people in Haiti are sharecroppers on land owned by the tiny, rich upper class.

The farming techniques used in Haiti are identical to techniques used in eastern Europe in pre-Medieval times. → Previously covered in tropical jungles, the island is now almost totally deforested and land erosion is such that the island will never be able to sustain its present population.

→ Haiti has few natural resources and little potential for export, but there is hope for the future.